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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-fifth Legislature

Second Regular Session - 2020

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1 AN ACT

RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM; AMENDING CHAPTER 94, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 67-9408, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 94, Title 67, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a <u>NEW SECTION</u>, to be known and designated as Section 67-9408, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

67-9408. OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE REVIEW COMMITTEE. (1) In order to establish oversight of occupational and professional licensure and related issues in Idaho, there is hereby established an occupational and professional licensure review committee.

- (2) The committee shall consist of eight (8) members, with four (4) members from the senate, one (1) of whom shall be cochair of the committee, and four (4) members from the house of representatives, one (1) of whom shall be cochair of the committee. Members from the senate shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and members from the house of representatives shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. No more than three (3) members from the senate and no more than three (3) members from the house of representatives shall be from the same political party. Appointments to the committee shall be for the term of office of the member appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled in a manner consistent with the appointment procedure set forth in this subsection, except the appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. A committee member may be reappointed to the committee.
- (3) The committee may conduct a sunrise review upon request that a lawful profession or occupational group that is not regulated become regulated. For purposes of this section, a profession or occupation becoming "regulated" means adding a requirement that a person must hold a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization in order to engage in such profession or occupation.
 - (4) The sunrise review process shall be as follows:
 - (a) The legislative services office shall prepare an application form to be approved by the committee and used for the sunrise review process described in this subsection.
 - (b) If a government requestor or a representative of a profession or occupation that is not regulated proposes that the state regulate a profession or occupation, the requestor or representative shall, prior to the introduction of any proposed legislation, submit the application for sunrise review to the legislative services office. The application

shall be submitted by June 1 for review and processing prior to the next regular legislative session.

- (c) In addition to any other information requested by the committee or staff, the application shall include a copy of the applicant's proposed draft legislation and a description of:
 - (i) Why licensing or other regulation of the profession or occupation is necessary to protect against present, recognizable, and sufficient harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the public to warrant the regulation proposed;
 - (ii) Why the proposed licensing or other regulation is the least restrictive regulation necessary to meet the objectives of the previous subparagraph;
 - (iii) Why the public cannot be effectively protected by other means;
 - (iv) Whether the overall cost-effectiveness and economic impact of the proposed regulation, including the direct and indirect costs to consumers, will be outweighed by the benefits of the proposed licensing or other regulation;
 - (v) Whether the proposed licensing or other regulation will have an unreasonable effect on job creation or job retention in the state or will place unreasonable restrictions on the ability of individuals who seek to practice or who are practicing a given profession or occupation to continue to practice or to find employment; and
 - (vi) Any other relevant information.
- (d) With respect to an application timely received pursuant to this subsection, the legislative services office shall, by August 15, submit a report with factual analysis to the committee and the applicant. Such report shall be made available to the public. Such report shall verify the contents of an application and submitted information and address any other related factual matters, but shall not contain a recommendation.
- (e) With respect to an application timely received pursuant to this subsection, by October 1, the committee shall review such application and submitted information and the associated report prepared by the legislative services office, along with any other relevant information, and hold a public hearing on such application. By November 1, the committee shall make a recommendation to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives as to whether a requested occupation or profession should be regulated in the manner set forth in the application. The committee's recommendation may include suggestions as to how the application, including the legislation, may be improved. An applicant receiving such recommendations shall be encouraged to make such changes as suggested by the committee without the necessity of reappearing before the committee prior to introducing the legislation at issue.
- (5) The committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the proper performance of its duties upon the call of the cochairs.
- (6) In addition to the sunrise process, the committee may study and review occupational licensing and certification laws in general in order

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to determine, as applicable, how the legislature may be able to ease occupational licensing barriers while still protecting the public health and safety.

(7) The committee shall operate for two (2) years and make a report to the second regular session of the sixty-sixth Idaho legislature in 2022. The legislature may take subsequent action to extend the duration of the committee or to make it permanent.